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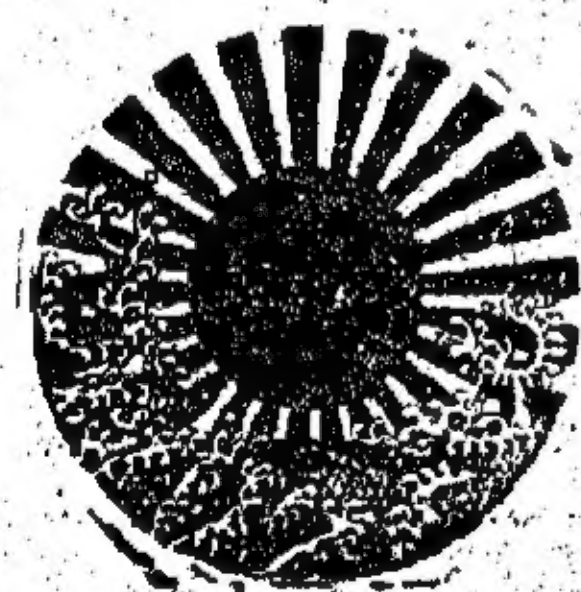
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CHURCH SERVICES.

St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong.
3rd Sunday in Advent, 17th December, 1916.
Holy Communion (7.30 a.m.) 11 a.m.
Responses, Ferial; Ven's, Crotch; Psalm, 68.
(Ritualist 2nd evening); Anthems, 'O Lord, God Save the King, N.B.—Psalm 68, verses 1, 5, 10, 12, 14 and 18 in union; Hymns 61, verses 1 and 4 in union. Evening Service, 7.30 p.m. Responses, Ferial; Psalm, 68; Hymns, 378, 383, 389 and 65; Subject, 'The Sinful Question.' Evening Service at 6. Hymns, 550, 270, 288 and 223. Pre-chor. Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald.

SPORT.

CRICKET.

CIVIL SERVICE C.C. F. KOWLOON "A."

The following will represent the Civil Service in their home match to-day at 2 p.m.:—
C. Sara (Captain), C. J. Tacchi, H. W. Bearne, C. F. Mason, E. W. Dawson, R. C. Wicheff, J. W. Franks, F. J. Ling, F. Bacon, F. Deane and F. E. Hull. Umpire, W. H. Woolley; scorer, W. Fincher.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

In the first division, the Club meet the Navy again, this time in the Hongkong League. There was nothing to enthuse about over their meeting last week; the Club, especially, were decidedly off colour, and were rather lucky to win. They are on top in this league, at present, having won both their matches, and if they play up to form, should manage to keep their position, at any rate for a time.

The meeting of the R.E. and K.S.L.I. will provide a very keenly contested match. A win for the Engineers, and a reverse for the Club, would put the former at the head of affairs, but the Shrophires possess a good team with an exceptionally clever line of forwards, and the R.E. will probably find their defence taxed to the utmost to prevent goals. The last meeting of these teams produced a draw, each side scoring three goals, the Shrophires equalling in the last few minutes of play.

In view of the 88th Company's somewhat easy win over the Lusitania last week, their meeting with the South China Athletic in the second division will be interesting. The Chinese players are very clever and very quick, and play, perhaps, better football than any other team in the second division. They have lost the fruits of their victory over the Lusitania by the withdrawal of the latter from the league, but the Athletic should be very near the head of affairs when the season comes to an end.

The remaining match is between the 87th Coy. R.G.A. and the R.E. (R). The former have not yet won a match, although they have managed a couple of draws, while the Sappers are not much better off, having obtained only two points out of a possible eight. The game should therefore be an even one, though the football may not be of a very high order.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

1ST DIVISION.
H.K.F.C. v. Navy—Club Ground. Kick-off, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Bowles.

R.E. v. K.S.L.I.—Navy Ground. Kick-off, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Banks.

2ND DIVISION.
88th Coy. R.G.A. v. S.C. Athletic—Military Ground. Kick-off, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. Ball.

87th Coy. R.G.A. v. R.E. (R)—Navy Ground. Kick-off, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. Wells.

TEAMS.
H.K.F.C.—Goldenberg; Railton and Stalker; Robinson, Stewart and Ralston; Rawlinson, Chasless, Walker, McTavish and Rodger.

Navy—Crocker; Fleming and Moore; Cornish, Martin and Biggs; Hopper, Palmer, Ridgeway, Mahoney, Daniels.

K.S.L.I.—Pritchards; Clayton and Wall; Morris, Williams and Henn; Bradcock, Macinn, Pritchards, Wassell, Peplow.

R.E.—Wilkinson; Blumfield and Coxon; Brennan, Smith and Richards; Millard, Townsend, Scott, White and Pearce.

2ND DIVISION.
I.E. (R)—Jones; Andrews and Quick-shanks; Smith A. Boff, and Peckok; Baker, Patton, Allen, Rogers and Ren-nells.

87th Coy. R.G.A.—Divine; Cox and Southworth; Pass, Higham and Cummings; McGregor, Knight, Thomas, Bone and Southworth.

88th Coy. R.G.A.—Griffiths; Li Hall and Jones W.; L. Jones, Mancini and Coventry; Hancock, Watson, Taylor, Jones J. L. and Phipps.

South China Athletic—Leung Yuk-tong; Cheung Wing-hon, Fung Tai; Chan King-ko, Leung Dai-long, Fung Kai-ming; Kwok Pok-kan, Au Kit-sang, Lam Yu-fun, Wong Pak-keung, Ip Kwai-shum. Reserves—Wong Lo-fat, Leung Kwong-ying.

HONGKONG LEAGUE 1ST DIVISION

Club	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Hongkong P.C.	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
R.G.A.	3	1	1	1	1	1	3
R.E.	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
K.S.L.I.	1	1	0	2	0	2	3
Navy	3	0	3	0	1	5	0

UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

Club	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
R.G.A.	3	2	0	1	3	0	5
H.K. Volunteers	3	2	0	1	2	1	4
R.E.	3	0	1	2	3	4	2
K.S.L.I.	1	0	1	1	3	1	3
Navy	2	0	2	0	0	3	0

HONGKONG LEAGUE

Club	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
"D" Co. V.S.L.L.	5	4	1	0	14	4	8
"A" Co. K.S.L.L.	4	3	1	0	11	2	6
Staff and Depot	4	3	1	0	4	3	6
S. China Ath.	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Lusitania	4	3	1	1	6	4	5
88th Co. R.G.A.	4	2	1	1	5	6	5
87th Co. R.G.A.	5	1	2	2	6	8	4
R.E. Res.	4	1	3	0	3	10	5
Fowleson	3	1	3	0	2	8	3
Navy Res.	5	0	4	1	6	14	1

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs. Vernon & Smyth, in their weekly share report dated the 15th December, 1916, state:—

Our last report was dated 8th inst. and during the interval our local market has been fairly active for all speculative stocks, with a considerable business passing in Sugars, Indos and Cements. Investment Stocks continue dull, with few buyers in evidence and some pressure on the part of absentee holders to secure current high rates of exchange. Shanghai market looks much more healthy, and the financial position seems to be slowly resuming its normal condition.

Singapore market for Rubber shares keeps firm, but with only slight changes in price to note. Raw Rubber after advancing to 3/6s is since somewhat lower at 3/4, but owing to the delay in cables it is difficult to say what the present price is. To-day's wired quotations for Rubber Shares are:—

Alor Gajahs	4.15
Glencays	2.50
Kedahs	4.30
Kempas	8.20
Malaka Pindas	2.35
Malakoffs	4.75
New Serendahs	4.30
Sanderofts	5.05
Tapahs	31.05

Plantation Rubber is quoted in London 3/7 per lb. Sterling T.T. is quoted 2/48. Bar Silver was 26s. on last cable received. Singapore T.T. is 1014. Shanghai T.T. is about 671 nominal. The Bank's buying rate for 3 d/s bills is also nominal.

BANKS.—No business is reported, and the rate remains nominal at 27/30.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Beyond a small business in Unions at 925, nothing has been done. There are further sellers at the rate. Cautions remain nominal at 400. Yangtses 8255 at exchange 73. North Chinas at 115, 152 also nominal.

FIRE INSURANCES.—No sales are reported and prices are unaltered at 875 for Hongkong Fire, and 355 for China Fires, both nominal.

SHIPPING.—Douglases continue very quiet, but shares could be placed at 8120, and probably at 8121. Indo-Chinas deferred have improved their position, and have been the medium of a fairly large business, at from 8140 to 8142 cash, and 8147 to 8149 for March. Market has eased slightly to-day, and we quote them 8141 cash buyers. The Preferred could be placed at 836. Steamboats have been dull and inclined to weakness. Shares are on offer at 821. Star Ferries have been done at 838, and there are further sellers at the figure.

OUTS.—Scarcely any business is passing. A few Langkats have been sold at 21s. 2d and there are now buyers at 21s. 2d. Shells are unchanged at 104/- nominal, and Ural Capitans remain at 32/6 nominal.

REFINERIES.—There has been a marked improvement in the market for China Sugars and price has improved from 8128 to 8134, with a considerable business done for February and March at corresponding rates. Market closes steady at 8134 for the Settlement. Malabons show a slight advance with buyers at 877.

MINING.—This has been a dead market and nothing has been done. Raub is wanted at 82. Trenchons are nominal at 30/- and Kelans at 30/-.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been a quiet market, and price shows little variation on the week. There are buyers for cash at 8131 and business has been done at 8134 down to 8137 for March. Kowloon Wharves have met a much better demand and a fairly large business has been put through at 844 to 845 cash and 889 to 890 for March. At the close there are buyers at 853 cash and 889 March. Shanghai Docks have improved to 890 buyers in consequence of the improved financial outlook in Shanghai.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Market remains very dull. Business was done in Lands at 808 and 807 and at the latter rate there are further sellers. Humphreys are wanted at 86.90, but other lines are nominal. Hotels at 1115, Kowloon Lands, 833, West Points at 885 and Centrals at 8101.

COTTON MILLS.—There is a better tone about this market. Shanghai Cottons have advanced to 8120, Kung Yiks to 815, and Enes to 1571, all buyers. Yangtses are nominal at 86.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have been an active market and, after the usual ups and downs, close about same as last week with cash buyers at 811.35. China Providents could be placed at 88.35. China Lights are wanted at 82. Dairy Farms show no change at 825. Electric could be obtained at 833. Ropes are nominal at 344, as are China Borneos at 82. Tramways have been done as low as 86.90 and further shares are offering at 87.

Memo.—Next Settlement Day 22nd December.

FUNERAL OF MR. A. H. WHITE.
The funeral of the late Mr. A. H. White took place at Pak-hai-joo Cemetery Shanghai on December 15th in the presence of his immediate relations and a large gathering of sympathizing friends, which included representatives of the Exchange Banks, the Exchange Brokers Association, the Stock Exchange, the Sharebrokers Association, and of the Clubs, and business hongs, both British and foreign, with which he had been associated, as well as numerous personal friends. The esteem in which Mr. White was held by all members of the community was also shown by the profusion of wreaths, which not only covered the coffin, but lined the aisle of the mortuary chapel and the paths of the cemetery garden.

The service in the chapel and at the graveside was read by the Rev. Father Jacquinet, and the coffin was carried from the chapel to the family grave by Messrs. H. F. Bell, R. C. Farbridge, G. E. O. Mayne, A. Samson, A. P. Naser, Y. H. Bourne, E. Moller and E. M. de Souza, followed by the chief mourners, Messrs. W. White, C. J. White, H. O. White and G. S. V. Bidwell, and an extremely large gathering of other friends.

—N.C. Daily News.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

CORPS ORDERS BY LT.-COL. A. CHAPMAN, V.D.

1.—RESIGNED.
No. 1790 Spr. F. Garcia is permitted to resign from 14th December, 1916.
No. 1440 Pte. B. S. Benjamin is permitted to resign from 29th December, 1916.

2.—LEAVE.
No. 1030 Pte. H. L. Dennys is granted 3 weeks' leave from 18th December, 1916.

3.—TRANSFERRED.
No. 1506 Gr. P. Tod is transferred to Scouts Company from Belchers 6th Section from this date.

4.—STRUCK OFF.
No. 1994 Spr. F. C. Maidment is struck off the strength of the Corps from this date.

5.—ENGINEER COMPANY.
Detail of Engineer Company duties at Lyemun from 16th to 21st December, 1916, has been posted at Headquarters.

6.—MUSKETRY.
(a) The undermentioned men will attend for Musketry at King's Park Range on Saturday, 16th instant, at 2.15 p.m.:—
Recruits Part 1: Spr. J. Morais, Spr. W. Smith, Pte. P. Tangap, G. W. Brown.

Trained Men Part 1: Spr. M. T. H. Blake, Spr. T. Johnston, Spr. B. Pasco, C.S.M. D. K. Blair.

Recruits Part 2: Ptes. A. E. Cocks, A. H. G. Jackson, W. Manning, C. Wallace.

Trained Men Part 2: Corpl. C. Edgecombe, Ptes. E. L. Sim, C. Woodhead, A. David, A. Whitmarsh.

(b) The undermentioned men will attend for Musketry at King's Park Range on Sunday, 17th instant, at 9 a.m.:—
Recruits Part 2: Sprs. T. Gibbons, J. H. Gordon, A. W. Hurlow, T. Leonard, D. W. Manton, N. McArthur, H. A. Moosdeen, S. Musso, J. Morais, W. J. Owens, R. Pass, L. S. Straube, L. Souza, Pte. P. Tangap, Gr. W. Brown.

Trained Men Part 2: Sergt. H. F. Haines, Sprs. P. Anderson, M. T. H. Blake, C. Dickens, J. E. Hansen, M. Houghton, T. Johnston, C.S.M. D. K. Blair.

7.—PARADES.
Saturday, 16th inst.:—
9.15 p.m. Musketry King's Park Range (as in 6 (b) above). Range Officer, 2nd-Lieut. Hegarty; Officer i/c Butts, Capt. Preston.

Sunday, 17th inst.:—
9 a.m. Musketry King's Park Range (as in 6 (b) above). Range Officer, 2nd-Lieut. Raworth; Officer i/c Butts, Capt. Preston.

3 p.m. Scouts Company at Headquarters in marching order with 20 rounds ball ammunition.

4.30 p.m. Belchers 6th Section at Belchers Battery in marching order with 20 rounds ball ammunition.

Monday, 18th inst.:—
5.10 p.m. Centre Section M.G. Company drill at Kowloon Dock. Hongkong residents proceed by launch from Statue Wharf at 4.30 p.m.

5.15 p.m. Left Section M.G. Company Civil Service Company and Right Section M.G. Co., platoon drill on Murray Parade Ground.

5.15 p.m. Recruits of all units at Headquarters under Corpl. Grimes.

5.30 p.m. Signalling Section at R. A. Theatre.

Tuesday, 19th inst.:—
5.15 p.m. Stretcher Bearer Section at Headquarters.

5.15 p.m. Mounted Section at Jockey Club Stables.

5.30 p.m. Signalling Section at Headquarters.

Wednesday, 20th inst.:—
5.15 p.m. Artillery Battery platoon drill at Headquarters.

Thursday, 21st inst.:—
5.30 p.m. Signalling Section at R. A. Theatre.

Friday, 22nd inst.:—
5.15 p.m. Recruits of all units at Headquarters. C.S.M. Wicheff and Corpl. Grimes will attend.

5.30 p.m. Signalling Section at R. A. Theatre.

All units (except Engineer Company) at Headquarters for night operations (Time will be notified later).

8.—DETAIL.
On duty 24th inst.—Artillery Battery.
" " 25th inst.—Belchers Section.
" " 26th inst.—do
" " 27th inst.—Centre Section M.G. Co.
" " 28th inst.—Right Section M.G. Co.
" " 29th inst.—Scouts Company.
" " 30th inst.—do.

Orderly Officer from 24th to 30th inst.—Lieut. Rees.

A. F. CHURCHILL, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.C.
Hongkong, 15th December, 1916.

RETIREMENT OF VON KLUCK.

General von Kluck's retirement was recently reported by the *Militär-Wochenblatt*. The paper says:—

Von Kluck, Colonel-General of the Army and late Commander-in-Chief of the First Army, has been placed on half-pay, in accordance with his request to be allowed to retire, with nomination as Chief of the Sixth Pomeranian Infantry Regiment, No. 49, and with the usual pension. He will also continue in the service list of generals.

General von Kluck commanded the German right wing which, during the early days of the war, came almost into touch with the outer defences of Paris. It was his army with which the British Expeditionary Force had its desperate fight at Mons and by which it was forced to retire to the line of the Marne—Times.

HONGKONG RESERVES.

ORDERS BY MAJOR WAKEMAN, O.C., H.K.V.C.

DETAIL.
On duty from the morning of Sunday, 17th December, to the morning of Sunday, 24th December—"A" Coy. H.K.V.C.

Orderly Officer—2nd-Lt. R. Sutherland. Next for duty—H.K.V.C.

PARADES FOR WEEK ENDING 23RD DECEMBER.
Monday, 18th inst.:—
"B" Coy. Musketry. The following members of "B" Coy. will parade at Blake Pier at 3.30 p.m. for Musketry. Dress: Drill order:—
Ptes. J. Jack, A. D. Macdonald, E. White, C. G. Alabaster, F. Allan, H. Coombs, E. J. Joseph, E. M. Raymond, A. M. Stark, F. W. Stapleton, J. R. Wood, A. G. M. Fletcher, R. McGregor, H. O. Holt, N. G. Nolan, J. Paterson, H. W. Page, F. C. Coleman, J. Garraway, E. L. Hostie, A. R. Kinross, R. Mitchell, D. Neilson, P. Oliver, D. Steel, W. Taylor, R. Gray, A. Hamilton, A. Millar, G. Morrison, R. D. Harvey, W. Sinclair, P. J. Falconer, H. Palmer, F. E. Hall, R. A. Ramsey, G. R. Cuthill, J. Maclellan, R. F. Mattingley, A. F. Goldfinch, C. H. P. Hay, K. E. Greig.

Tuesday, 19th inst.:—
"B" Coy. Musketry. The following members of "B" Coy. will parade at Blake Pier at 3.30 p.m. for Musketry. Dress: Drill order:—
Ptes. J. Jack, A. D. Macdonald, E. White, C. G. Alabaster, F. Allan, H. Coombs, E. J. Joseph, E. M. Raymond, A. M. Stark, F. W. Stapleton, J. R. Wood, A. G. M. Fletcher, R. McGregor, H. O. Holt, N. G. Nolan, J. Paterson, H. W. Page, F. C. Coleman, J. Garraway, E. L. Hostie, A. R. Kinross, R. Mitchell, D. Neilson, P. Oliver, D. Steel, W. Taylor, R. Gray, A. Hamilton, A. Millar, G. Morrison, R. D. Harvey, W. Sinclair, P. J. Falconer, H. Palmer, F. E. Hall, R. A. Ramsey, G. R. Cuthill, J. Maclellan, R. F. Mattingley, A. F. Goldfinch, C. H. P. Hay, K. E. Greig.

Wednesday, 20th inst.:—
"A" and "B" Cos. Musketry. The following members of "A" and "B" Cos. will parade at Blake Pier at 3.30 p.m. for Musketry. Dress: Drill order:—
Sergt. G. C. Moxon, Corpl. V. Daniel, Lt.-Corpl. J. C. Logan, Ptes. H. A. Walker, A. J. J. Brock, J. Carr, W. Anderson, F. A. Cotnam, F. A. Mackintosh, K. McLennan, H. Elson.

Thursday, 21st inst.:—
"A" and "B" Cos. Musketry. The names of members to parade at Blake Pier at 3.30 p.m. for Musketry will be published later. Dress: Drill order.

FIELD OPERATIONS.
Field Operations will take place on Thursday, 21st inst., or Friday, 22nd inst. Details will be notified later.

APPOINTMENTS.
The Officer Commanding is pleased to make the following appointments:—
Pte. P. D. Sutherland to be Lance-Corporal and posted to Platoon No. V, Section 3.
Pte. E. F. Aucott to be Lance-Corporal and posted to Platoon No. IV, Section 18.
Pte. A. O. Lang to be Lance-Corporal and posted to Platoon No. II, Section 7.
Pte. H. C. R. Hancock to be Lance-Corporal and posted to Platoon No. III, Section 11.
Pte. S. Lack to be Lance-Corporal and posted to Platoon No. VII, Section 12.
Pte. F. C. Goodman to be Lance-Corporal and posted to Platoon No. VI, Section 5.
Pte. W. H. Bell to be Lance-Corporal and posted to Platoon No. I, Section 3.
Pte. H. Palmer to be Lance-Corporal and posted to Platoon No. VI, Section 8.

(Sgd.) G. K. H. Brutton, Captain, Adjutant, H.K.V.C.
Hongkong, 15th December, 1916.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

SALUTING.
The acknowledgment of rank, by whomsoever held, is essential to the maintenance of discipline.

The attention of Sergeants and Constables is accordingly drawn to Standing Order 53, and of Inspectors to Standing Orders 47 and 50.

JOINED.
No. 2 Company, No. 8 Section—Pte. 793 C. J. M. Pereira.

RESIGNED.
Pte. 556 Alves is permitted to resign on leaving the Colony.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.
Entries, which close on Thursday, Dec. 21st, should be addressed to Inspector C. Alves, c/o Orderly Room Sergeant. All ranks are expected to keep this date open and give their support to the Meeting. The Prizes are exhibited at Headquarters' Club.

INSPECTION OF ARMS.
No. 1 Company and Maxim Gunners (including medical exemptions) will return their Rifles to the Armory between 5.15 and 5.45 p.m. as follows:—
Tuesday, December 19th—Nos. 1 and 2 Sections and Maxim Gunners.
Friday, December 22nd—Nos. 3 and 4 Sections.
Each man must attach to his Rifle a tab bearing his name, collar number and Section.

(Sgd.) F. C. JENKIN, D.S.P. (R.).
Hongkong, 15th December, 1916.

"KISMET."

**SPLENDID PRODUCTION BY
HONGKONG A.D.C.
A GORGEOUS EASTERN SETTING.**

To be, apparently, over-ambitious, does not necessarily result in disaster. In an Eastern setting which was at once gorgeous and realistic, the Hongkong A.D.C. produced "Kismet" to a crowded audience at the Theatre Royal last evening, and the ambitious effort was a remarkable success. "Kismet," which was written by Edward Knoblock to the memory of one Richard Burton, "one of the greatest of Englishmen, and one of the least understood" is one of the foremost spectacular plays produced in recent years. To be a success, and to realise its deeply mystical spirit, the play has to capture not only the imagination and adventure, but also the colour of the East of the "Arabian Nights," for Hajj, the beggar and the play's hero, in a single day carries with him a *fantasy* that is truly magnificent, the whole world of the Orient—its beauty, and brutality, its poetry and comedy—upon his broad shoulders. The "Kismet" of the Hongkong A.D.C., though somewhat different to the original version, thoroughly achieved this object, and the large audience was deeply impressed by the general splendour and excellence of the production.

"Kismet" is a phantasy, and deals with a day in the life of a beggar; a day for which he has lived; a day of terrible revenge taking; a mingling of brutality and beauty which, if it were not a phantasy of a mystical land would be absurd in its extremes. Many years ago Hajj, the beggar of Baghdad, had his beautiful wife stolen from him by the Sheikh Jawan. He only waits for vengeance, and, as a beggar, he waits, day and night, for a sign of the Sheikh Jawan, his only happiness in life being his beautiful daughter, Marisnah, on whom he dotes. One day while begging at the Mosque of the Carpenters, Hajj, unknowingly, invokes the blessing of Allah upon the Sheikh Jawan, for which he receives a bag of gold. When Hajj discovers the identity of the giver his rage is fearful to behold—but he retains the gold, "gold stained with blood," for purposes of revenge. With the money he decks himself in wonderful robes, and also adds to the beauty of Marisnah. A scene in the bazaar, when Hajj is spending the Sheikh Jawan's gold, leads to his being brought before the Wazir Mansur. At first he is ordered to have a hand chopped off, but eventually Mansur, deep in intrigue and debt, arranges with Hajj that he should kill the Caliph Abdullah, his reward for which, in addition to liberty and rank, should be that Mansur would marry Marisnah. Hajj then discovers that Marisnah has a humble lover—in reality the Caliph Abdullah in modest raiment—but, nevertheless, he has her carried away to Mansur. Of course, Hajj does not kill the Caliph, his attempt at stabbing him, in the midst of a gorgeous assembly in the Hall of the Palace merely resulting in a broken blade, for the Caliph wears a suit of chain armour. Hajj is thrown into prison, where he meets the Sheikh Jawan. Hajj is due to die and Jawan to immediate release. Hajj becomes almost insane at this prospect, snags his chains, kills the Sheikh Jawan, changes raiment, and is released in his stead. One enemy has been disposed of. Hajj at once makes for the harem of Mansur, and having been secretly wooed, when arrayed in splendid apparel, by the beautiful Kut-al-Kulub, Mansur's first wife, has no difficulty in gaining admittance to the sacred enclosure. Here Hajj reveals his identity to the Kut-al-Kulub, she seeks revenge by giving the alarm that a man is in the harem, and Mansur arrives to dispense punishment. However, suspended around the neck of Hajj he notices half of an amulet—which Hajj removed from the Sheikh Jawan—and this leads Mansur to suppose that Hajj is his long lost father. Hajj assists Mansur to this belief, and when Mansur bows before him Hajj, in a great fury, swings Mansur above his head, dashes him into the bath of the harem and holds him under the water until he has breathed his last—father and son have been killed by Hajj between the rising and setting of a day's sun. There was still the Caliph's vengeance to fear, but explanations ensued, the Caliph loved Marisnah for herself alone, and made her his wife. To play the father of his future wife was out of the question, so the Caliph commanded Hajj to leave Baghdad before daybreak, and to remain in banishment. Thus the day ends. Hajj, while his beautiful daughter leaves to become the wife of the Caliph, returns to his beggar's stone outside the Mosque of the Carpenters, there to await the dawn and the commencement of a pilgrimage to Mecca to wash in the well of Zemen. "Kismet" is just a phantasy, a story told to the Sultan of the "Arabian Nights," and as such is more or less common-place. But to produce such a phantasy, and to portray all its life and movement, and to depict the Eastern setting—the morning, the afternoon and the evening, with the kaleidoscopic bazaar scene, the grandeur of the Caliph's Palace, the sensuous beauty of the harem, and the dungeon of the Eastern Palace is a tremendous task even for professional Theatians. Thus the success achieved by the Hongkong A.D.C. is even more praiseworthy and reflects the greatest credit upon the producer, Mr. W. Sinclair, who with many successes to his credit, must have reached his zenith last evening.

Individually, also, the various actors and actresses scored triumphs. If Hajj were not a success the whole play would be a failure, and it was evident that Mr. C. H. P. Hay fully realised his responsibilities for his acting was an outstanding

success. One easily forgot that he was an amateur; the varying moods and emotions of Hajj were wonderfully effective, from his gasping cry for alms to his manifold exultations over the dead bodies of Jawan and Mansur, and again, in his crowning over the beautiful Marisnah, and his passionate passages with the daring and bewitching Kut-al-Kulub. It was a most difficult part to adequately sustain, the whole play hinged upon its performance, and Mr. Hay succeeded beyond many expectations. Few will forget his death-struggle with Jawan in the prison, his drowning of Mansur in the harem bath, or his touching farewell to his beautiful daughter and to Baghdad when his "day" concludes with his banishment. Some present may have seen Oscar Asche in the same role, and, without being fatuous, it may be said at once that Mr. Hay gave a very faithful copy of the creator of Hajj. Mrs. Evans, who undertook, at somewhat short notice, the part of Marisnah, early demonstrated that she is an actress of distinct merit. In addition to her picturesque representation of her secluded home life, she was also excellent in her love passages with the Caliph, and her repulsive feelings when she learns of her father's matrimonial arrangements with the ill-famed Mansur. In addition to this, Mrs. Evans' staging of Marisnah's song, her duet with the Caliph, and her dancing before her father's admiring gaze, were beautiful and effective, and were deservedly applauded. As the Caliph, Mr. Findlay Smith made a happy blending of majestic bearing and simple and effective love-making in humble guise, but where he scored chiefly was in his song from "Omar" "I sometimes think that never grows so red a rose, and in the duet with Marisnah. In addition to his imposing stage presence and skilled acting, Mr. Findlay Smith possesses a magnificent baritone voice, and last evening he used this to good effect. The Wazir Mansur, a rogue as cunning as Hajj, only he endeavours to hide his black heart with ostentation. In this part Mr. Lee had opportunities for effective acting, especially when he arranges for the disposal of the Caliph, and he never failed to act up to the part. The cunning which was hidden by magnificent raiment was most skillfully brought out, and the death scene was a great triumph. Mrs. Milner Jones, as Kut-al-Kulub had, perhaps, one of the most difficult parts for an amateur actress; she had to appear daring and sensuous; the beautiful occupant of a harem. Any awkward hesitation would have spoiled the part, but Mrs. Jones acted with delightful abandon, and, in her luring of Hajj when attired in State raiment, was responsible for a superb piece of acting which was only heightened by her very realistic show of disgust and repulsion when she realises that she has been wooing a beggar. The Sheikh Jawan is a pitiable figure. He has lived his life, and when he meets the man whose wife he has stolen is a cripple who has to be supported by servants. With all his weakness he yet possesses a very cunning spirit, and finds deep humour in the situation of the blessing of Allah being unwittingly called down upon him by his bitterest enemy. This again is a most difficult part to which to do justice, but Mr. Northcote was quite at home in it. Mr. Northcote has scored many successes on the amateur stage, and last night his reputation was added to. In the goal scene, especially, when he is literally crushed to death by the mad beggar, Mr. Northcote was most effective, and contributed largely to the success of a very strong scene calling for skillful treatment.

The above were the principal parts, though they would fail in their object if the minors were not also good. The various officials, attendants, and the inhabitants of the mystic city, whose names appear below, were all excellent in their respective parts, which are too numerous to individualise. Suffice it to say that everyone was delightfully realistic, and fully appreciated the spirit of the phantasy, thus preventing any of those diverting lapses which are apt to mar amateur productions. Everyone acted in a manner which denoted the best of training and the aptest of pupils, and thus we had a production which, from the point of view of acting alone, was an unlooked for success. One cannot remember when the local A.D.C. has achieved such success.

First and foremost, "Kismet" is a spectacular play; beautiful dresses worn by many stately Arabians and their bewitching women—folk; gorgeous scenes with fascinating lighting effects, and with a mystical Eastern atmosphere pervading all. Here again those in charge of the production rose to the occasion in a manner which confounded many who were dubious as to their ability to stage "Kismet" as the play should be staged. The most striking scenes are the Caliph's Court, the harem and the bazaar. Taking the last first, there is a great tendency on the part of amateurs to allow a bazaar scene, and especially the colour and movement, and general babble of an Eastern *Suk* to pall somewhat in places. This was not the case last evening. The setting was ideal and the dealers and buyers, attired in multi-coloured gowns, chattered and bargained and quarrelled in most realistic fashion. The Caliph's Court was typical of Eastern splendour and majesty, and the realism of it all was added to by the weird and snake-like dance of The Almah (Miss Filkins), who was loudly applauded for her remarkable performance, and a dainty Eastern dance by four sweetly pretty slave girls. The Harem was, perhaps, the most effective and beautiful of all the scenes. Here it is that the handsome and wonderfully attired Kut-al-Kulub rules over a large collection of beautiful young ladies; who play and gambol together like so many children, and glide about the water of the harem bath, their only witnesses being a number of white pigeons which flutter unconcerned about the richly-equipped and sacred apartment. This scene was a real triumph for those concerned. In this connection it should be mentioned that the costumes were designed and made by, and under the supervision of Mrs. C. H. P. Hay, the scenery was painted by Pte. H. G. Cross, 4th K.S.L.I., and Sapper J. S.

Jones, R.E., and that the stage accessories were supplied by Ye Cheong, Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co., and Messrs. Komer and Komer.

Without the weird music of the East "Kismet" would fail in its object, and the fact that this important feature was entrusted to a local composer, Mr. Norman Peterkin, only adds to the success of this purely amateur production. Mr. Peterkin has skillfully imbued his work with the atmosphere of the East, while harmonising his themes in modern style. It was impossible to secure all the varied instrumentalists necessary to do real justice to the musical demands of the play, but the orchestra of amateurs did exceedingly well, and deserve every credit for a splendid performance despite the handicap mentioned. The pieces comprise Prelude, March, Marisnah's dance, Oriental dance, and Valse lente as instrumental music, and the vocal items are songs for Marisnah and Caliph, and a duet for the same voices. It was the duet which created such a favourable impression last evening, and the whole musical production, and Mr. Peterkin the greatest credit, and also Mr. Norman Fuller, who helped in connection with the orchestration.

A word for the producer, Mr. Sinclair, has attempted many difficult productions in his time, and in this connection we may recall the "Bluebird," which was a great triumph. Many were of the opinion that he was over-ambitious to attempt the great and spectacular "Kismet." Last night's performance showed that Mr. Sinclair is a master of his hobby—it would be considered an all his previous effort and gave us a truly remarkable amateur production.

The characters in the order of their appearance were as follows:—Hajj, Mr. C. H. P. Hay; The Muezzin, Mr. J. H. Walker; The Imam Mahmud, Mr. J. Young; A. Mufti, Mr. J. H. Ramsay; The Guide Nasir, Mr. A. M. Preston; The Sheikh Jawan, Mr. M. S. Northcote; The Beggar Kasim, Mr. R. E. Mattingly; Amru, Mr. S. Komer; Zayd, Mr. G. Komer; Amru's Apprentice, Mr. B. Caldwell; Zayd's Apprentice, Mr. L. D. Purves; The Caliph Abdulla, Mr. V. Findlay Smith; The Wazir Abu Bakr, Mr. C. Champkin; The Wazir Mansur, Mr. L. N. Lee; Kafur, Mansur's Servant, Mr. E. G. Herbert; Afie, his Secretary, Mr. E. L. Sim; The Captain of the Watch, Mr. J. A. Ridgway; An Attendant of Mansur, Mr. E. Mitchell; An Attendant of the Caliph, Mr. J. H. Ramsay; A Herald of the Caliph, Mr. P. S. Cassidy; A Sweetener, Mr. J. H. Ramsay; Flowerboy, Mr. Dick d'Almada e Castro; The Donkeyman, Mr. J. Young; The Goatman, Mr. E. F. Scull; The Monkeyman, Mr. J. S. Jones; Water Carrier, Mr. J. M. Walker; A Blind Man, Mr. J. A. E. Bullock; A Chinaman, Mr. G. W. C. Burnett; The Gaoler Kutayt, Mr. J. A. E. Bullock; Marisnah, Hajj's Daughter, Mrs. Evans; Narjis, her Nurse, Mrs. W. Manning; Kabirah, an Old Woman, Miss L. Tolan; Miskah, a Slave, Mrs. Hammond; Kut-al-Kulub, Mansur's first wife, Mrs. Milner Jones; The Almah, Principal Dancer, Miss D. Filkins; The Storyteller was Mr. J. E. Bullock.

The minor parts were sustained by the following:—Shopmen, apprentices, buyers and porters, Messrs. J. Bentley, E. Osmond, F. W. Richardson, C. F. Malby, L. H. Lovely, S. S. Perry, F. Schnepel, W. Macoe, B. S. Setna, E. Mitchell, M. J. Danenberg, C. V. Osmond, F. J. Tavares, W. A. Cornell, L. C. R. Sousa, C. O. Danenberg, J. B. Speirs and J. Murray.

Bazaar Women.—The Misses M. E. Long, Stokes, Razavet, L. M. Rosser and V. Razavet. Bedouins and Egyptians.—Messrs. L. le Breton, F. B. Silva, A. B. Tavares and Miss Haynes. Dignitaries, Wazirs and Kasas.—Messrs. Alva Tavares, H. J. Jones, L. C. R. Sousa, C. O. Danenberg, A. E. Botello, R. A. Brand, E. Osmond, M. J. Danenberg, L. A. Gutierrez, J. Day, B. S. Setna and G. V. Osmond.

Dancers.—Misses P. d'Almada, D. Razavet, M. de Souza, and E. Osmond. Musicians.—Misses M. E. Long, V. Razavet, Razavet, and Stokes.

Kut-al-Kulub's Attendants.—Mrs. E. L. Sim, and the Misses L. M. Rosser, Denison, Haynes, Lammet, and L. Tolan.

The lighting was done by Mr. Denman Fuller, the properties by Messrs. A. M. Preston and J. H. Ramsay. The Stage Assistants were Messrs. V. A. Cornell and P. Cross; the advertising agents, Messrs. V. Findlay Smith and J. Bentley, and the advance booking agent, Mr. W. R. Mansfield. The prompter was Mr. E. Mitchell.

The orchestra was composed of the following:—First violins: Miss V. Ores, Miss P. Gordon, Mr. W. R. Neighbour and Mr. C. F. Xavier. Second violins: Mr. A. Brage, Mr. S. Gray, Miss R. Judah, Mrs. A. W. Robertson and Mr. J. M. Rozario. Violoncello: Mr. J. Gracia. Flute: Mr. J. D. Osmond. Clarinet: Mr. S. Pina. Trombone: Mr. A. Osmond. Piano: Miss Esther Xavier. Organ: Mr. E. J. Chapman. The conductor was Mr. N. Peterkin.

It should be mentioned that the proceeds of the performance, which is to be repeated this evening, also on Monday, Wednesday (matinee) and the following Saturday, are to be given to the Star and Garret Building Fund, and in view of the fact that the theatre was packed last evening, and that the booking has been heavy, it may be confidently anticipated that such a laudable cause will receive substantial assistance. Apart from its charitable object, however, the play is deserving of every support on account of its excellence alone.

The Patrons are:—H.E. the Governor (Sir Henry May, K.C.M.G.), Vice-Military W. L. Grant, O.B. R.N., H.E. Major-General Ventris, and Commodore Sanderson, R.N. The A.D.C. Committee consists of Col. Chanman, V.D., Hon. Mr. C. H. P. Hay, W. Sinclair, W. G. Worcester and M. S. Northcote. Among those present at last night's performance were His Excellency the Governor, Lady May and the Misses May. Upon arrival His Excellency was received by a Guard of Honour composed of members of the Sai-Ying-Pun section of the St. John's Ambulance.

COMPANY MEETING.**THE GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY.**

An extraordinary general meeting of the Green Island Cement Company was held at the offices of Messrs. Shawan, Tomes & Co., general managers, yesterday, for the purpose of considering and passing extraordinary resolutions. The Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton presided, and there were also present:—Father Robert, Mr. A. O. Lang (Directors), Mr. R. Henderson (Secretary), and Messrs. R. Shewan, J. M. Gordon, J. A. Young, R. Hancock, G. P. Lammet, J. S. Harston, M. A. Figueiredo and Tso Lan-tai (shareholders).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, the resolutions just read by the Secretary as embodied in the notice convening this meeting require little explanation from me, as the proposals they contain have simply in view a reduction of the Company's paid up capital from \$4,000,000 to \$3,000,000 by returning to shareholders \$1,000,000 in cash. As you are no doubt aware, our reason for bringing these proposals before you is that the Company has much more money in hand than it can make use of in its business, and it is not anticipated that, in the near future, funds in any large amount will be required for plant extension or such like expenditure. Your Directors have hitherto found it a difficult matter to make use of the Company's liquid funds, and although, as you may know, a certain amount of profit has been made by manipulating such funds, it is now felt that it will not, under present conditions, be sound policy to continue financial operations of the kind involved, as without permanently investing the money the risks incurred are too great and are not justifiable in the case of an industrial concern like ours. The dividend for the current year will, of course, be payable on the present capital of \$4,000,000, and although if and when the proposed return of \$1,000,000 to shareholders is made, the future receipts from interest will, to a certain extent, be reduced, it is hoped that in the years to come, improved working profits may easily offset such reduction. Since the advertisement of the notice convening this meeting was given, the Company's solicitors have intimated they deem it advisable that, although not strictly legally necessary, a parenthesis should be inserted by way of amendment in the first resolution after the words "and that such reduction be effected by returning," which occur in the middle of the first resolution as set out in the advertisement conveying this meeting which have appeared in the columns of the local newspapers. The parenthesis being as follows: "(on such date as the Company's Board of Directors shall appoint)," and the amendment proposed will have the effect of enabling the directors to fix a date on which the shareholders who are to receive the refund of capital, will be ascertained. I have now, therefore to intimate, so that the procedure adopted may be quite in order, that I will first of all propose the resolution in the form wherein it has appeared in the columns of the local newspapers. I therefore propose "That the capital of the Company be reduced from \$4,000,000 (Four million dollars) divided into 400,000 (Four hundred thousand) shares of \$10 (Ten dollars) each, to \$3,000,000 (Three million dollars) divided into 400,000 (Four hundred thousand) shares of \$7.50 (Seven dollars and fifty cents) each, and that such reduction be effected by returning to the holders of the 400,000 (Four hundred thousand) shares that have been issued paid up capital to the extent of \$250 (Two dollars and fifty cents) per share and by reducing the nominal amount of each of the said shares from \$10 (Ten dollars) to \$7.50 (Seven dollars and fifty cents)."

Mr. HANCOCK seconded, and the proposition was carried. Mr. LANG—I beg to propose "That the resolution be amended by the insertion of the parenthesis (On such date as the Company's Board of Directors shall appoint), and that the resolution be amended accordingly so as to read as follows:—"That the capital of the Company be reduced from \$4,000,000 divided into 400,000 shares of \$10 each to \$3,000,000, divided into 400,000 shares of \$7.50 each, and that such reduction be effected by returning (on such date as the Company's Board of Directors shall appoint) to the holders of the 400,000 shares that have been issued paid up capital to the extent of \$250 per share and by reducing the nominal amount of each of the said shares from \$10 to \$7.50." Mr. SHEWAN seconded, and this was agreed to. The Chairman—I have now to propose the second resolution, and that is "That a dividend of \$1.00 be made to the Shareholders of Hongkong to conform to the reduction of the capital of the Company in conformity with the foregoing resolution."

Mr. YOUNG seconded, and this was agreed to.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.**BRIBERY.**

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, a Chinese Revenue Officer was charged with attempting to obtain a bribe of \$100 from a Chinese who was coming off a boat at Jardine's wharf. Another man was also charged with aiding him. Both men were remanded.

EMBEZZLEMENT.

A Chinese salesman, in the employ of the Wing On Company, was charged before Mr. C. D. Melbourne, with embezzling the sum of \$1,000 of his employers. It transpired that a customer purchased some articles, and that the defendant failed to hand the money over to the cashier or to make out a proper bill. He was sentenced to 14 days' hard labour.

POLICE RESERVE CASES.

Inspector Gegg, of the mounted section of the Police Reserve, summoned twelve riksha coolies for obstruction, each being fined \$3. Sergeant Scull of the Reserves summoned truck coolies for overladen trucks, each defendant being fined \$4.

A motor cyclist was summoned by Trooper Arnold for not sounding his horn when rounding a corner, but this case was dismissed with a caution.

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THE WAR.

THE PEACE PROPOSALS.

MORE COMMENTS.

ANOTHER BRITISH WAR CREDIT.

LULL IN FIGHTING.

AN AUSTRIAN SENSATION.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

PEACE OFFERS.

THE GERMAN VIEW.

AMSTERDAM, December 15th.

General von Hindenburg has telegraphed Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg congratulating him on his speech which he had read with "deep emotion and great satisfaction, as it is a great moral demonstration of the strength of Germany. We soldiers know that at present there is no higher or holier duty than prosecuting victory with the utmost energy, and living and dying for the Kaiser and the fatherland."

The Chancellor replied:—"The deeds of the army on land, and our deeds on the water, have cleared the way for a magnanimous decision by the Kaiser and his Allies. If it does not please our enemies to terminate the war to-day, our soldiers will fight to secure for the fatherland a strong and lasting peace."

GERMAN REJOICINGS.

FLUSHING, December 15th.

There have been great rejoicings among the German soldiers at the various Belgian frontier places, they believing that peace was imminent. Their behaviour everywhere was such as to indicate that they were a victorious army.

GERMANY AND LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS.

WASHINGTON, December 15th.

The German Embassy has authorised the statement that it is certain that one of the most important subjects for discussion at the peace conference would be an universal limitation of armaments.

RUSSIA AND PEACE.

PROPOSALS SCORNFULLY DESPISED.

PETROGRAD, December 15th.

A semi-official note scornfully criticises the peace proposals, and declares that all the innumerable sacrifices of the Allies would be nullified by a premature peace, with the enemy exhausted but not yet brought down.

ANOTHER BRITISH WAR CREDIT.

ESTIMATES EXCEEDED.

LONDON, December 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law moved a credit vote of £400,000,000, which, he said, would suffice until February 24th. The average daily expenditure had risen to £5,710,000. The total credit votes for the financial year had been £1,950,000,000, which was £350,000,000 above the estimate. The increase was mainly due to munitions and loans to the Allies and the Dominions. The extent of the increase in munitions was enormous; it was almost incredible. This was striking proof of the country's vitality. The increase under the heading "Loans to Allies and the Dominions" amounted to £400,000 daily. The increase, however, had gone entirely to the Allies, as the Dominions had been able to finance their expenditure.

Mr. Bonar Law emphasised Germany's advantage in the matter of controlling the resources of her Allies, and declared that the Entente Governments had been endeavouring to secure a central control. Much had been done in this connection in the past six months. He believed that the rapidity of victory depended on the extent to which the resources of the Allies in men, money and munitions, could be thrown into the common cause. The Commons unanimously adopted the vote of credit.

FRANCE TO SUPPRESS ALCOHOL.

Paris, December 15th.

A Bill has been drafted to suppress the consumption of alcohol and its requisition for defence purposes.

SAFEGUARDING POTATO SUPPLY.

LONDON, December 15th.

The Food Controllers, at the instance of the Board of Trade, have issued regulations safeguarding the 1917 supply of seed potatoes.

FALL OF AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

GERMAN INFLUENCE.

ZURICH, December 15th.

The fall of the Koerber Cabinet is due, to the influence of Germany, who is displeased at M. Koerber's firmness towards Hungary. Germany favours a conciliatory Austrian policy in Hungary, with the object of establishing closer political and economic relations between Austria, Germany and Hungary. M. Spitzmuller, who is forming the new Cabinet, is an ex-employee of the Deutsche bank.

MORE GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS.

LONDON, December 15th.

The following additional appointments have been announced.—Parliamentary Secretaries of Munitions: Mr. Worthington Evans and Mr. Kellaway; of the Admiralty: Dr. Macnamara. Civil Lord of the Admiralty: Mr. Pretymann. Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade: Mr. G. Roberts; to the Board of Agriculture: Mr. Wintrey. Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the War Office: Mr. MacPherson. Financial Secretary to the War Office: Mr. Forster. Lord Steward of the Household: Lord Farquhar. Treasurer to the Household: Captain James Craig. Comptroller of the Household: Sir Edwin Cornwall. Captain and Yeoman of the Guard: Lord Suffield. Lords-in-Waiting: Lord Kenyon and Viscount Valentia. Parliamentary Secretary to the Air Board: Mr. J. L. Baird. Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury: the Hon. Neil Primrose. Lords of the Treasury: Mr. J. F. Hope, Mr. John Walsh and Mr. Pratt.

MR. HODGE AT WORK.

DEALING WITH STRIKERS.

LONDON, December 15th.

Mr. Hodge has announced that he is dealing in a drastic manner under the Munitions and Defence of the Realm Acts, with the boiler makers' strike at Liverpool. The strike is interfering with work of vital importance, and it arose against the leaders' advice over an award in connection with the increased cost of living. Mr. Hodge's offer to hear the grievances if work is resumed has been disregarded.

LORD SYDENHAM.

LONDON, December 15th.

The railway's Company have conferred a Freedom on Lord Sydenham in recognition of his great services to the Empire, particularly as Governor of Bombay.

Lord Sydenham, in acknowledging the honour, said he had done his utmost for the Empire for many years in varied capacities, especially in trying to produce organisation for war.

FRANCE ORGANISING NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Paris, December 15th.

The Government has introduced a Bill authorising the Government to take, by decree, measures necessary for national defence, especially regarding agriculture, the industrial output, recruiting labour and the sale and distribution of commodities.

P. & O. ANNUAL MEETING. INCREASED PASSENGER RATES.

LONDON, December 15th.

Presiding over the P. & O. annual meeting, Lord Inchcape foreboded an increase in passenger rates next year. He paid a tribute to the Captain and crew of the *Arabia* for safely transferring 720 persons to the boats in fifteen minutes. The Company had received hundreds of letters from passengers expressing appreciation of their rescue and the arrangements made for their comfort, on which the company spent £10,000. The P. & O. capital was now seven and a half millions. The financial situation had been most closely investigated, and the result was quite reassuring. He hinted that the deferred dividend would be reduced. Referring to submarine warfare, Lord Inchcape said that if all the stories were true, submarines were constantly sunk, and he was confident that the Navy would overcome the momentary difficulties.

DANISH WEST INDIES.

COPENHAGEN, December 15th.

A plebiscite on the sale of the Danish West Indies has resulted in 283,604 votes in favour and 157,586 against.

SERBIA'S INDEPENDENCE.

LONDON, December 15th.

Mr. Lloyd George and M. Pasitch have exchanged messages on the Allies' determination to prosecute the war until Serbia's independence is restored.

M. BRIAND INDISPOSED.

PARIS, December 15th.

M. Briand the Premier, is indisposed, due to strain in speaking and replying to interminable interpellations for six hours.

EARLIER CABLES.

PEACE PROPOSALS.

RUSSIAN OPINION.

PETROGRAD, December 15th.

An authoritative opinion here says that the peace proposal is a fresh trap, and that a premature peace would be a terrible mistake. The Allies must proceed to final triumph.

BRITAIN AND THE PROPOSAL.

LONDON, December 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that up to the present no peace proposal had reached the Government.

GERMANS ANXIOUS FOR PEACE.

AMSTERDAM, December 15th.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* publishes a remarkable article, the tone of which is one of studied moderation, endeavouring to persuade the Entente to accept the peace offer.

It says that, although they are not yet known, Germany's peace proposals will be found to be moderate, and that the great majority of Germans are anxious for a lasting peace.

PEACE NOTE IN AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, December 15th.

The Peace Note, accompanied by a confidential report from the American Chargé d'Affaires in Berlin, outlining the affairs which led up to the Chancellor's overtures, has been received and is now before President Wilson. It is not indicated whether the President will add anything, prior to its immediate transmission to the Allies.

RUSSIA ALIVE TO THE POSITION.

PETROGRAD, December 15th.

A semi-official note reviews previous German efforts to create an idea of peace prospects among her own people in order to obtain support and to animate the troops. It dwells on attempts to sow discord among the members of the Entente by reports of a separate peace, and declares that the lack of sincerity and the object of the new proposals are evident. It points out that the enemy will need heroic measures to complete the gaps in her armaments, simultaneously projecting a sort of serfdom in the guise of compulsory military work.

BRITAIN'S WAR BILL.

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

LONDON, December 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that Britain's total war expenditure was £3,852,000,000. He said he believed we should be able to maintain the present rate long enough to ensure that financial causes would not prevent victory. (Cheers.)

Mr. McKenna promised Mr. Bonar Law his fullest support in a difficult task.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

CAUSES OF RESIGNATION.

AMSTERDAM, December 15th.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, a telegram from Vienna states that the resignation of the Ministry is due partly to opposition to a number of German Deputies, and partly to the question of a Constitutional relationship with Hungary.

CAPTAIN BLAIKIE'S CASE.

GOVERNMENT ACTION.

LONDON, December 15th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law announced that the Government is taking such action as is thought necessary in the case of Captain Blaikie, of the Caledonia.

ANARCHY IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

THE EMPEROR'S POSITION.

AMSTERDAM, December 15th.

Herr Koerber's resignation has caused a sensation in Vienna, where the Emperor's move is regarded as revolutionary, and as indicating an intention to restore absolutism into the régime. The Emperor personally requested Herr Koerber to resign and no explanation is forthcoming, but it was undoubtedly due to growing political anarchy. It is reported that the Emperor previously conferred with Count Tisza, for the latter, in a speech at Budapest on Tuesday, admitted that Austria-Hungary took the first step in the direction of offering peace.

Herr Alexander Spitzmuller, who is forming a Government, is a director of the Viennese Credit Anstalt and is insignificant politically. It is believed that Count Berchtold will return to the Foreign Office.

PEACE QUESTION IN COMMONS.

THE BRITISH POSITION.

LONDON, December 14th.

In the House of Commons Mr. Bonar Law, referring to the Peace proposal, reminded the House that Mr. Asquith, in moving the last Vote of Credit, declared that the Allies require adequate reparation for the past and adequate security for the future. (Loud cheers.) "That is still our policy," Mr. Bonar Law said, "and that is still the determination of the Government." (Prolonged cheers.)

FOOD AND SHIPPING CONTROL.

LONDON, December 14th.

A correction to the message received on the 11th inst., outlining the personnel of the new Cabinet, indicates that Lord Davenport has been appointed Food Controller, and Sir Joseph MacLay, Shipping Controller.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

LIVELY ARTILLERY ACTIONS.

PARIS, December 15th.

A communiqué states:—There have been fairly lively artillery actions, south of the Somme, and on both banks of the Meuse and the heights south of Bonhomme.

BRITISH ACTIVITY.

LONDON, December 15th.

General Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We entered trenches in the neighbourhood of Monchy Aubeis. Southward of Arras we bombed dug-outs full of troops. The enemy's attempt at a raid in the neighbourhood of Hulluch failed. We bombarded and fired a dump in the neighbourhood of Ys.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SINKINGS.

LONDON, December 15th.

The latest sinkings are *St. Ursula*, *Hurlin*, *Hartington*, and *Burnhope* (British); *Bjor* (Norwegian); *Emma* (Danish) and a four masted barque (French).

The Balkans.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

MONASTIR BOMBARDED.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

LONDON, December 14th.

A French communiqué states:—The enemy bombarded the whole of the Monastir front, as well as the town itself, causing civilian casualties. We effectively replied.

RUSSIAN OPERATIONS.

STUBBORN BATTLE IN PROGRESS.

LONDON, December 14th.

A Russian communiqué states:—The enemy on the 13th inst. continued his attacks in the direction of Buzen.

Our cavalry and infantry came in contact with the enemy to the west and south-west of Buzen and fought a stubborn battle. The communiqué does not mention the result, and presumably the battle continues.

GERMAN REPORT.

GENERAL MACKENSEN PROGRESSING.

LONDON, December 15th.

A Berlin official message states that General von Mackensen is progressing on the whole front, despite the greatest difficulties.

The road in Great Wallachia, south of the railway line from Bukharest to Cernavoda, has been cleared of the enemy. Russian attacks in the wooded Carpathians, and Serbian attacks east of the Cerna were repulsed.

THE "POLAVEN" FIRE.

EVIDENCE BY PROFESSOR MIDDLETON SMITH.

THE CAUSES OF COMBUSTION.

The inquiry was resumed at the Hongkong Marine Court yesterday into the causes of the fire on the Asiatic Petroleum Company's boat *Polaven*, when she was alongside the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's wharf on November 2nd. Mr. H. W. Looker appeared for the Dock Co., and Mr. F. C. Jenkin (instructed by Mr. Hooper) was for the owners of the vessel.

The Court was composed of Commander Beckwith, R.N., Commander Gibson, Capt. Walker (s.s. *Kewangtung*), and Mr. J. Macdonald (Government Marine Surveyor).

At the outset Mr. Jenkin said he would be calling Professor Middleton Smith to give expert evidence.

A Chinese fitter, who was on the *Polaven* when the fire occurred, said that when he saw the smoke and flames he also "heard a noise," but could not say what kind of noise it was. The smoke and flames were so fierce, and "came along so quickly," that he had not time to rescue his clothing.

Another fitter corroborated, and this concluded the evidence for the Dock Company, after which Mr. Jenkin called Professor Middleton Smith.

Witness said that he had had practical experience in engineering on ships, and was now Professor of Engineering at the Hongkong University.

Mr. Jenkin then gave the reasons put forward by Mr. Forsyth on behalf of the Dock Company, as to the cause of fire; and asked witness his opinions on them.

Professor Smith, who had reviewed the evidence, said that if there had been combustion of the coal he would expect dense clouds of smoke to be thrown off from the coal for a very long time previous to the fire. He understood Mr. Forsyth's opinion was that there was instantaneous combustion of the coal. In order for combustion to take place there must be air present, and if there had been air in the bunkers it was clearly possible for smoke to come out of the bunkers. The 'tween deck plate must have been exceedingly hot, white hot in fact, to cause fire; he did not understand the term explosion. If the coal had been in the state described, the engine-room would have had a temperature of 120 or 130, or even more. A density of gases, he said, would go down, not up, and from what he had read of the evidence, the term explosion had been used in a very vague sense. There might have been a puff, but nothing in the nature of an explosion. They could not have an explosion without pressure. As to the second theory, the coal dust in the fan casings being ignited by a current of fresh air, witness said there would have to be ignition: A current of air could not cause a fire of this sort unless it was invested with heat. There must be flame, or an electric spark to ignite the whole thing. That matter had been investigated by the Home Office, and they were by no means clear on the subject. Dealing with the damp cotton-waste theory, witness said that cotton-waste was frequently close to kerosene, and he had never heard of any combustion taking place as a consequence. He had never heard of cotton-waste, under the circumstances mentioned in that case, bursting into spontaneous combustion; and he had used cotton-waste for twenty years. If cotton-waste was confined in a tin, it would have to combust for a long time before the tin became sufficiently hot to cause a fire, and even then there would be a lot of smouldering. This depended a great deal on how the cotton-waste was packed; but there would always be a lot of smouldering.

As to the theory of kerosene gas mixing with oxygen and causing an explosion, Professor Smith said he frankly did not understand anything about that; he had never heard of anything of the sort happening. Kerosene did give off a vapour, but it would require a considerable heat to cause an explosion. There would be no explosion under ordinary atmospheric conditions; there would be no explosion in a temperature of 120 or 130. Even then there would have to be ignition, and if there was any ignition there would be no bomb-like explosion. If a fire broke out in the fan casings, it would be an "admirable" place for rapid combustion, for it was an air shaft. Witness added that from his own experience of workmen on ships of the *Polaven* kind, he could say that Chinese workmen were ten times as careless as British workmen.

Mr. Looker—I object to that remark. You are not here Professor Smith, to speak as to the carelessness of workmen here or anywhere else.

Commander Beckwith—I think it is interesting, Mr. Looker.

Cross-examined by Mr. Looker—Professor Smith said he had no chemical degree, but he had passed chemical examinations in order to obtain his M. Sc. degree. He would expect to hear a sort of puff if a tin of kerosene were ignited; not an explosion. The same would happen if a gas came into contact with flame. There would be a sort of noise, but not a loud explosion. He had never heard of spontaneous combustion taking place in fan-casings where there was no waste or any inflammable material. He could give no reason for the cause of spontaneous combustion in a steel fan-casing. He did not agree that spontaneous combustion was a frequent occurrence in cotton-waste; he had never heard of any such cases; neither had he heard of cases of spontaneous combustion occurring in cotton in cotton-laden ships. He was of opinion that kerosene gave off practically no vapour at all.

Mr. Duinker, Superintendent Engineer of the Asiatic Petroleum Company, said he went on board the *Polaven* soon after the fire broke out, and he saw a dock company's hose pouring water into the engine-room.

This was all the evidence.

Mr. Looker again reminded the Court that its function was to inquire into the causes of the fire. The owners of the vessel held the Dock Company responsible for the fire, and if they persisted in such opinion, proceedings would follow and, in view of that, the Court must be careful not to prejudice anyone. The cause of the fire was purely a matter of theory. There was no evidence of any description put forward on which it was possible to base a slightest substantial element of fact as to how the fire occurred. It had been alleged that the workmen were using candles in a careless manner, and that they set something alight, but they had not the slightest evidence of that description. The only real theory which had been put forward was that spontaneous combustion occurred in the coal, but it was impossible to ascertain the cause with any certainty. The fire was most probably caused by some spontaneous combustion occurring either in the store-room or in the coal bunker; that seemed to be the only reasonable theory.

After the tiffin adjournment, Mr. Jenkin addressed the Court on behalf of the Asiatic Petroleum Company and reviewed the evidence at considerable length. He agreed with Mr. Looker that the only function the Court had to perform was to give a decision in accordance with the evidence as to the cause of the fire; but he held that, in view of the evidence put forward, the Court could have no difficulty in coming to the conclusion—unwilling as they might be to do so—that the Dock Company were guilty, in the sense of being responsible for the fire. The ship was in the hands of the Dock Company, and the only person on board who was not connected with the Dock Company was Mr. Heck, who had nothing to do with the work that was going on, but was there merely in an advisory capacity. The only people who could give definite information were employees of the Dock Company, and it would be obvious to the Court that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to get at the real cause of the fire if the subordinates of the Company had to admit negligence. Four conjectural lines of defence had been put forward for the Dock Company. There was an additional theory of explosion, but Mr. Looker, like the unconventional player at bridge, had "discovered through right" because the scientific witnesses were in agreement that there could not be an explosion in the circumstances that were present in this case. Counsel next proceeded to deal with the four conjectural causes of the fire, (1) spontaneous combustion among the coal; (2) coal gas accumulation in the fan igniting on contact with fresh air; (3) damp cotton-waste becoming saturated with kerosene and spontaneously igniting; and (4) the mixing of gases—gas drawn off from kerosene coming in contact with the hydrogen in the air and causing an explosion and fire. He proceeded to deal with each of the theories in turn, and contended that none of them could be any possibility, from the facts and circumstances elicited by the inquiry, be the cause of the fire. These conjectures, he held, would not stand examination, and were put forward by people who realised that if they put forward the real cause it was going to prejudice their position in the event of future action. As to the real facts, he was going to ask the Court to believe that those people had lied throughout, and that their lies had been put before the Court simply to screen the real facts and the people responsible.

Mr. Looker—Do you say that witnesses have been put up to lie in the witness-box? Do you suggest that I have put them forward to lie?

Mr. Jenkin—I adhere to what I have said.

Mr. Looker—Are you prepared to withdraw it?

Mr. Jenkin—I do not withdraw a word I have said.

Mr. Looker—Do you say I have had anything to do with putting up those witnesses to lie?

Mr. Jenkin—I do not.

Proceeding, Mr. Jenkin reviewed and analysed the evidence as to the use of candles in the room at the time of the fire, and the conflict of evidence on the point between the witnesses Heck and Li. Heck had no earthly reason for telling what was not true; Li was an employee of the Dockyard Company and had reason to hide the facts; there were candles in use, and that was a very negligent use of them. He left the Court to judge the value of the testimony of the two men.

Mr. Looker afterwards addressed the Court briefly in reply.

Commander Beckwith intimated that the Court would give its decision on Wednesday next at noon.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS.

ALHANA, British str., 2,408, Betts, 14th December—Chingwantao 7th December, Coal—Doddwell & Co.
CHONGKING, British str., 1,208, Hetherington, 15th December—Weihsaiwei 10th December, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.
CHUNSHANG, British str., 1,408, J. C. Matlock, 15th December—Haiphong 12th December, Rice—Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.
KUEICHOW, British str., 1,320, Edward Forsyth, 15th December—Weihsaiwei 10th December, General—Butterfield & Swire.
NANKIN, British str., 4,250, G. Manley, 15th December—Shanghai 12th December, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.
SUNGKING, British str., 987, H. Trowbridge, 15th December—Haiphong 11th December, General—Butterfield & Swire.

CLEARANCES.

IN THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE, December 15th.
EUREYDON, British str., for Shanghai.
NANKIN, British str., for Singapore.
RHOON MARU, Jap. str., for Batavia.
SAKUYI MARU, Jap. str., for Canton.

DEPARTURES.

December 15th.
COLOMBO MARU, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
HAININ, British str., for Singapore.
HUE, French str., for Peking.
SHANTUNG, British str., for Shanghai.
TOTOMI MARU, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
YAMAGATA MARU, Jap. str., for Japan.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.
Per Nankin, from Shanghai, Mr. F. D. Silas, Mrs. Mitchell, infant and native servant, Mrs. Howard and native servant, Mr. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. van Vriel, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mr. Bunker, Mr. Count Malynski, Mr. Popoff, Mr. J. Mickewich, Mr. Gunderson, and Mr. Byrne, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Wilkinson, and Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Ferguson.

VESSELS EXPECTED.

AMERICAN MAIL.
The P.M. str. Ecuador left Yokohama on 12th instant, for Hongkong via Kobe, Shanghai, and Manila, and may be expected to arrive here on December 23rd.
CANADIAN MAIL.
The C.P.O.S. str. Empress of Russia left Vancouver on the 30th November, p.m.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The str. Japan from Calcutta left Singapore on 14th instant, and may be expected here on or about the 20th inst.
The str. China arrived in San Francisco on Tuesday, the 12th instant, in accordance with schedule.

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1. From Green Island to the Harbour Master's Office. 2. From Harbour Master's Office to Kowloon Wharf. 3. From Kowloon Wharf to Naval Yard. 4. From Naval Yard to East Point.

ORIGIN	VESSEL'S NAME	FLAG & REG.	DEPT.	CAPTAIN	FOR VESSELS ATTY TO	TO BE DEPARTED
LONDON VIA USUAL PORTS OF CALL	NANKIN	Brit. str.	1 m.	G. Manley	P. & O. S. N. Co.	To-day, at Noon.
LONDON VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA, PENANG, & SINGAPORE	KANO MARU	Jap. str.	1 m.	Shimizu	NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA	On 22nd inst., at Noon.
LONDON VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA, PENANG, & SINGAPORE	NOVARA	Brit. str.	1 m.	H. R. Hetherington	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 23rd inst., at Noon.
GENOA & LONDON	GENOISE	Brit. str.	1 m.	J. McGregor	SWANSON, TOWN & CO.	On 23rd inst.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	AKASHI	Brit. str.	1 m.	Alkanu	MERRIMAN MARITIME	About 15th inst.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	TESTAN MARU	Jap. str.	1 m.	T. Yamaguchi	THE HANK LINE, LIMITED	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	TAKI MARU	Jap. str.	1 m.	G. Shiozaki	NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at 3 P.M.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	KITO MARU	Jap. str.	1 m.	H. Bent	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	TOYOKA MARU	Jap. str.	1 m.	A. G. Stevens	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	KASATO MARU	Jap. str.	1 m.	T. H. Dobson	TOYO KISEN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	THITO MARU	Jap. str.	1 m.	S. Robinson	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	BOUADOR	Jap. str.	1 m.	W. Dison Hepburn	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	NIPPON MARU	Jap. str.	1 m.	A. J. Hadley	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	ABAKAN	Jap. str.	1 m.	S. Robinson	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	CHINA	Jap. str.	1 m.	Takada	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF HONOLULU	Brit. str.	1 m.	F. Oyster	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	E. Yoshikawa	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Taniguchi	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	B. Forsyth	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	T. Sekine	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	E. S. Jones	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Walker	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	R. D. Morrison	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	W. Benson	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Shinohara	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	J. R. O'Sullivan	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Body	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	W. Hickard	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Gibbs	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	L. D. Pinckney	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	J. Gaunt, R.N.R.	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Murakami	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	A. Kobayashi	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	G. F. Cole	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	J. W. Evans	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	A. E. Hodgins	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Knight	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	S. Tokunishi	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	W. Massey	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	J. Walker	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	S. Yamano	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Hirata	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	K. Sakawa	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Bradley	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	Sakamoto	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	A. Kennedy	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	D. W. Bickley	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.
MASSACHUSETTS VIA PORTS	EXPRESS OF JAPAN	Brit. str.	1 m.	G. Hooker	OSAKA SHOSHIN KAISHA	On 15th inst., at Noon.

INDO-CHINA S. NAV. CO., LTD.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG (SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).
FOR MANILA: "LOONGSANG" Saturday, 16th Dec, 3 P.M.
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, CALUTTA: "KUTSANG" Sunday, 17th Dec, Noon.
FOR SHANGHAI: "WINGSANG" Thursday, 21st Dec, 1 P.M.
FOR HAIPHONG: "LOKSANG" Friday, 22nd Dec, 7 A.M.
FOR MANILA: "YUENSANG" Saturday, 23rd Dec, 3 P.M.
FOR SHANGHAI: "KWONGSANG" Sunday, 24th Dec, 1 P.M.
FOR SANDAKAN: "HINSANG" Friday, 29th Dec, Noon.

RETURN TOUS TO JAPAN.
The steamers "KUTSANG," "NANSANG," and "FOKUSANG" leave about every 3 weeks, generally call at Shanghai on route for Japan, returning via Kobe (Inland Sea) and Moji to Hongkong. Time occupied, 23 days. This service is supplemented by the "YUENSANG," "KWONGSANG," leaving Hongkong at regular intervals for Yokohama (when sufficient tonnage is offered), Kobe and Moji and returning thence direct to Hongkong. Time occupied, 19 days.
These vessels have all modern improvements and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.
A duly qualified surgeon is also carried.
Steamers have superior accommodation for First Class Passengers and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.
Taking cargo on Through Bills of Lading to Yangtze Ports, Chefoo, Tientsin, Dairen, Weihaiwei.
Taking cargo on Through Bills of Lading to Kaitai, Lahad Dato, Simporna, Tawau, Usukan, Jesselton and Labuan.
UNDER STRAITS GOVERNMENT PASSPORT REGULATIONS. All European Passengers leaving the Colony for Straits Settlements are required to produce on arrival at destination passports with their Photographs and description attested thereto.
Telephone No. 515.
For Freight or passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,
General Managers.

BRITISH INDIA S. N. CO., LTD.

NEW SERVICE OF STEAMERS BETWEEN
YOKOHAMA, KOBE, HONGKONG AND RANGOON.
Steamers are despatched Eastward and Westward at regular intervals taking Passengers and Cargo at Current Rates.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,
Agents.
Telephone No. 515.

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.
PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.
FOR HOMEWARD.
TRANS-PACIFIC SERVICE.
SAILINGS TO VICTORIA, VANCOUVER, SEATTLE, TACOMA AND PORTLAND.
For Freight and Further Particulars, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,
Agents.
Telephone No. 215 Sub. Ex. 10.

CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES LIMITED

QUICKEST TIME ACROSS THE PACIFIC
To Canada, United States and Europe via Vancouver
In connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway
Hongkong to Vancouver 17 days. Hongkong to Montreal 22 days.
Hongkong to Chicago 21 days. Hongkong to New York 22 days.
"EMPRESS OF RUSSIA" and "EMPRESS OF ASIA"
30,823 tons Displacement, quadruple screws, speed 21 knots.
Largest and most luxurious ships on the Pacific.
SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG (subject to change) SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.
"EMPRESS OF RUSSIA" ... 28 Dec. "EMPRESS OF RUSSIA" ... 15 Mar.
"EMPRESS OF JAPAN" ... 10 Jan. "EMPRESS OF JAPAN" ... 25 Mar.
"MONTEAGLE" ... 3 Feb. "MONTEAGLE" ... 14 Apr.
"EMPRESS OF ASIA" ... 10 Feb.
Calling at Shanghai, Nagasaki (Inland Sea), Kobe and Yokohama.
"Monteagle" calls Moji instead of Nagasaki.
Through Bills of Lading issued via Vancouver in connection with Canadian Pacific Railway to all Overland routes in Canada and the United States, also to Pacific Coast Ports, European ports and West Indies.
For further information as to rates of Freight and Passage, Sailing Lists, etc., please apply to
F. D. SUTHERLAND, General Agent, Passenger Dept., Hongkong.
J. H. WALLACE, General Agent, Hongkong.

P. & O. S. N. CO. ROYAL MAIL SERVICE

WILL dispatch VESSELS to the Undermentioned PORTS on or about the DATES named:—
FOR LONDON VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, PORT SAID, and MARSEILLES: NANKIN ... 16th Dec. { Direct Service }
FOR LONDON & BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, PORT SAID, and MARSEILLES: NOVARA ... 29th Dec. { Connecting at Colombo with "Moolan." }
FOR SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE: SOMALI ... 30th Dec. { Direct Service }
FOR SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE: NYANZA ... 1st Jan. { Direct Service }
WIRELESS ON ALL STEAMERS. Return tickets at a fare and a-half available to Europe for two years, or Intermediate Ports for six months. Round-the-world and through tickets to New York, at Special Rates.
SEE SEPARATE ADVERTISEMENT.
For PASSAGE RATES, HAND-BOOKS and FREIGHTS, apply to
P. & O. S. N. Co.
E. V. D. PARR, Acting Superintendent.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUSTRALIA, BOMBAY, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS AND LONDON.

THROUGH BILLS OF LADING ISSUED FOR
BATAVIA, AMERICAN, CONTINENTAL, AND SOUTH AFRICA PORTS.

THE Steamship
"NANKIN."
Captain G. Manley, carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this port on or about SATURDAY, the 16th Dec., 1916, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports. The "NANKIN" will proceed through to Port Said, Marseilles and London.
Suez and Yabouk for Bombay (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Colombo into a Steamer of the B. I. S. N. Co.
Parcels will be received at the Office until 3 P.M. the day before sailing. The contents and value of all packages are required.
For further particulars, apply to
E. V. D. PARR,
Acting Superintendent.

NOTICE.
THE MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA'S
Steamer "KOKA MARU" will be despatched by the TOYO KISEN KAISHA for Japan, Honolulu, San Francisco, Mexico and Central and South American Ports on FRIDAY, the 19th January, at Noon.
For information regarding freight, etc., kindly apply to the undersigned.
T. DAIGO, Agent,
Toyo Kisen Kaisha,
Hongkong. [1449]

NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
S.S. "CAEMARTHENSHIRE"
FROM UNITED KINGDOM AND INTERMEDIATE PORTS.
OWING to an outbreak of fire on board this vessel at Port Swettenham a General Average Contribution of 10 per cent. will be collected.
The General Average Bond will require to be signed and deposits made before counter-signature of Bills of Lading can be given.
The S.S. "CAEMARTHENSHIRE" is due here about 16th December.
For further particulars apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,
Agents for
THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.,
Owners of the "Ship" Line of Steamers [1446]

"BEN" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
S.S. "BENAVON"
FROM MIDDLEBORO, LONDON, STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns and/or extra Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence delivery may be obtained.
No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 15th inst. will be subject to rent.
All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Underwriter on or before the 25th inst., or they will not be recognized.
All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 15th inst., at 11 A.M.
No Fire Insurance has been effected.
Bills of Lading will be counter-signed by
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 11th December, 1916. [1449]

HONGKONG METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

Hongkong Observatory, December 15th.

	Previous Day at 2 p.m.	On 15th at 6 a.m.	On 15th at 3 p.m.	On 16th at 3 p.m.
Barometer	30.08	30.20	30.14	30.14
Temp.—ature	72	55	65	65
Humidity	84	47	44	44
Wind Direction	NNE	North	North	North
Force	3	2	1	1
Weather	—	b	b	b
Rain	—	—	—	—

Highest open-air Temperature on 14th—73
Lowest open-air Temperature on 16th—54

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE

From 16th to 22nd December, 1916.

Days of Month	High Water.		Low Water.	
	H'k'g Mean Time.	Height.	H'k'g Mean Time.	Height.
Satur.	18	2 39	4 0	8 20
Sun.	17	0 36	6 0	9 2 4
Mon.	18	1 40	5 5	9 2 4
Tues.	19	2 32	5 8	10 10 12
Wed.	20	3 20	4 7	10 12 3
Thurs.	1	4 12	4 4	10 55 3
Fri.	22	5 5	4 1	11 31 3
		6 42	4 0	12 43 4

